[Translation]

Fire in Coal Mines

5807. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of fire broke out in various coal mines of the country as on date during the last three years, mine-wise and State-wise;

(b) the total number of labourer's killed and financial losses suffered, mines-wise;

(c) the financial assistance provided by the Government to the family members of the labourers killed in the coal mines;

(d) the effective steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government to check such incidents;

(e) whether the Government propose to introduce any special scheme also for controlling the fire in coal mines;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). As per information furnished by Coal India Limited (CIL). State-wise details of incidents of spontaneous heating and fires in the coal mines of CIL during the last three years are given below :

State	1993	1994	1995	1996 (Upto July, 1996)
West Bengal	11	12	24	15
Bihar	1	1	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	1	1	1	2
Maharashtra	—	3	—	—
Orissa	1	—	—	—
Assam	—	1	—	—
Total	14	18	25	17

Coal company-wise details of workers killed and financial losses suffered as a result of above fire incidents are as under :

Coal Company	Financial loss (in Rs. Lakhs)	Production loss (in '000 to)	Workers killed
Eastern Coalfields Limited	805	237	55
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited	10	34	—
South Eastern Coalfields Limited	—	—	3

(c) In case of injury, the amount of compensation is worked out as per provisions contained in the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 and is based on the degree of disability, age and monthly earnings of the worker. In case of death, in addition to the compensation amount computed as per provisions of the Act, the following amount is paid by Coal India Limited (CIL) to the dependants of a deceased worker :

(i) Funeral expenses — Rs. 500/-

(ii) Ex-gratia amount — Rs. 10000/-

(iii) Amount under Life Cover Scheme — Rs. 15000/- (Revised to Rs. 20,000/- under NCWA-V)

In addition, employment to one of the dependants of the deceased is also offered. Alternatively, in lieu of employment, the widow/female dependant is paid a monthly pension of Rs. 3000/- till she attains 60 years of age/dies/remarries whichever is earlier.

(d) Preventive steps as laid down in detail in the Coal Mines Regulations 1957, directives of Directorate General of Mines Safety, Expert Committee recommendations as also the recommendations of various Courts of Inquiry, Safety Conferences, etc. are adopted by the mine managements. For better observance of these steps, Government is promoting self-regulation by coal companies through internal safety audits, workers participation in safety management, tripartite/bipartite reviews at various levels training and re-training of work persons, observance of safety weeks and safety campaigns and national safety awards.

(e) to (g). The main problems arising of these shallow fires exist in Jharia Coalfield of Dhanbad District in Bihar where twenty two fire projects to deal with such fires at an estimated cost of Rupees 114.57 crores are under various stages of implementation. With the objective of finding a long-term solution to the problem of Jharia Coalfield fires a diagnostic study under the Jharia Mine Fire Control Technical Assistance Project, assisted by World Bank, has been completed in June, 1996. Action on preparation of final report has been initiated by the consultant engaged for the purpose.

Interest Rates on Agricultural Loans

5808. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to reduce the interest rate on the agricultural loans for small and marginal farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

Setting up of Industries in U.P.

5809. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of industries such as small, medium and large set up in Uttar Pradesh during the last two years with the help of domestic/foreign companies; and

(b) the details of such domestic/foreign companies and also the details of the investments made by them ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) During the period Jan '94 to Dec '95, 33 Industrial Licences were granted for setting up various industries in the state of Uttar Pradesh and intimation regarding commencement of commercial production was received in respect of 95 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda durign the same period.

(b) The details are published in the Monthly News Letter of Indian Investment Centre and SIA-Statistics brought out by the Ministry of Industry, copies of which are regularly sent to Parliament Library. The approvals for setting up industries under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 do not always indicate the financing pattern and as such the details of the projects to be established with Government, Non-Government and foreign participation are not centrally maintained.

[English]

Garment Export Quota Policy

5810. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :

DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the task force appointed for reviewing the current garment and textiles export quota policy has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the task force; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The report of the task force is under Government's consideration.

Disinvestment Commission

5811. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :
DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the composition of disinvestment Commission alongwith its terms of reference; and

(b) by what time it is likely to start functioning ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). A Disinvestment Commission consisting of a full time Chairman and four part-time Members has already started functioning. The terms of reference of the disinvestment Commission are given in the Statement attached.

STATEMENT

The terms of reference of the Disinvestment Commission are as under :

(i) To draw a comprehensive overall long term disinvestment programme within 5 to 10 years for the PSUs referred to it by the Core Group.

(ii) to determine the extent of disinvestment (total/partial indicating percentage) in each of the PSUs.

(iii) To priorities the PSUs referred to it by the Core Group in terms of the overall disinvestment programme.

(iv) To recommend the preferred mode (s) of disinvestment (domestic capital markets/international capital markets/ auction/private sale to identified investors/any other) for each of the identified PSUs. Also to suggest an appropriate mix of the various alternatives taking into account the market conditions.

(v) To recommended a mix between primary and secondary disinvestment taking into account the Government's objective, the relevant PSU's funding requirement and the market conditions.

(vi) To supervise the overall sale process and take decisions on instrument, pricing, timing, etc, as appropriate.

(vii) To select the financial advisers for the specified PSUs to facilitate the disinvestment process.

(viii) To ensure that appropriate measures are taken during the disinvestment process to protect the interests of the affected employees including encouraging employees' participation in the sale process.

(ix) To monitor the progress of disinvestment process and take necessary measures and report periodically to the Government on such progress.